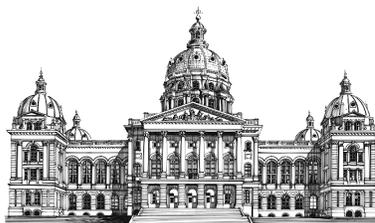


Iowa Legislative Fiscal Bureau

Dennis Prouty
(515) 281-5279
FAX 281-8451



State Capitol
Des Moines, IA 50319
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Regents Accounting System Data Transfer To The Iowa Financial Accounting System

ISSUE

Section 8.29, Code of Iowa, requires the State Board of Regents to establish a uniform budgeting and accounting system for the institutions of higher education under its control by June 30, 1994.

AFFECTED AGENCIES

University of Iowa (SUI)
Iowa State University (ISU)
University of Northern Iowa (UNI)

CODE AUTHORITY

Section 8.29, Code of Iowa

BACKGROUND

In late 1988, the Board of Regents (BOR) established an administrative systems workgroup to address concerns raised by the State Auditor's Office, the Department of Revenue and Finance (DRF), and Peat Marwick. The concerns addressed by these organizations included timely submission of reports, uniformity between the institutions for budgeting and accounting systems in preparation to provide financial data to the DRF for the Consolidated Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

From February 1989 to July 1991, the administrative systems workgroup addressed the issues detailed in the previous paragraph. In July 1991, the administrative systems workgroup issued its final report to the BOR Banking Committee. The Banking Committee approved the report at its July 1991 meeting. The report stated the Regent institutions had agreed to a uniform chart of accounts, uniformity in reporting of expenditures and revenues, and a uniform presentation of financial reports. The report contained the following implementation timeline:

- FY 1991 - Uniform Report Format

- FY 1991 - Uniform Balance Sheet Presentation
- FY 1991 - Common Fund Groupings
- FY 1993 - Common Account Classification by Fund and Function
- FY 1994 - Common Revenue, Expenditure, and Transfer Object Codes

During the 1992 Legislative Session, Section 8.29, Code of Iowa, was amended to require the institutions of higher education under the control of the BOR establish a uniform budgeting and accounting system by June 30, 1994. This Section directs the DOM to require the institutions of higher education to provide budgeting and accounting data in a format that is transferable to the State maintained budgeting and accounting system (IFAS).

The 2 special schools under the control of the BOR began transferring data to the IFAS in FY 1993.

CURRENT SITUATION

The BOR staff and institutional staff have been meeting with representatives from the DRF, the DOM, and the Legislative Fiscal Bureau (LFB) during the fall of 1993 in an attempt to create a data transfer system between the institutions' accounting systems and the IFAS. The meetings have resulted in the Regent institutions developing computer programs that will transfer data to the IFAS by computer tape or cartridge. The SUI and ISU anticipate having their transfer systems ready for testing in late January or early February with the transfer system being fully operational by the end of July 1994. The UNI will not be ready for testing until late June or early July but intends to have an operational transfer system in place by the first week of August 1994.

The data transfer, when it becomes operational in July 1994, will provide monthly updates of accounting activity that will be used by the DOM and the LFB. In addition to providing monthly information, it will provide detail that isn't currently available by breaking the data down to lower levels of the operation. Once the transfer system is operational, detailed information by departments within colleges can be examined. Currently the data provided by the institutions is usually at a higher aggregate level such as the general education fund.

If the testing of the transfer systems is delayed beyond mid February for SUI and ISU, it may be necessary for these institutions to appear before the Joint Education Appropriation Committee and provide a progress report.

STAFF CONTACT: Brad Hudson (Ext. 17799)